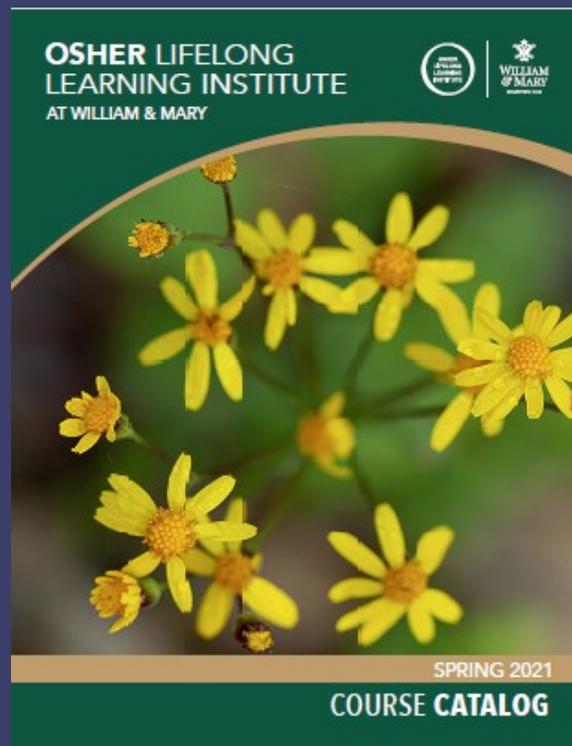


The Osher News December 2020 Huzzah!

Spring Semester Registration

Be sure to check your mailbox next week! Catalogs for the spring semester will be mailed on December 7 and registration will begin on December 14. The initial course request period is December 14-December 18. During that week, you can purchase a spring membership, select the courses, activities and onetime lectures you would like to attend and prioritize them in the order of preference. Once the lottery is run you will receive a confirmation of the courses you were registered for on December 21. For detailed instructions on how to register, click [here](#).



Scholarships Available

Several Kernodle-Wren scholarships, funded by a grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, that pay the full cost of a Regular membership in the Osher Institute are available each of our twice-yearly semesters. Recipients must be 50 or older with an annual combined household adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less. If you need assistance for the spring semester and fit the criteria listed above, please do not hesitate to apply! And if your friends or family have wanted to become members but are concerned about the cost, please encourage them to contact us. Applications are available by emailing osher@wm.edu or leaving a voicemail at (757) 221-1506.

Coming This Spring: New Online Learning Communities

The range of online learning tools that are available for learners today would have been unimaginable a decade ago. Every type of learning has been impacted by advances in the power of computers, tablets, smart phones, and the software that runs on them. You have to wonder how many people regularly used Zoom before the pandemic hit!

- Gene Roche, Distance Learning Committee Chair



[Learn about Blackboard from our President, Scott Langhorst!](#)

Ready to Explore?
Ready to Grow?
Ready for Adventure?

Think about that feeling of

- **accomplishment** that comes from using new technology to master a difficult task like learning a new language, writing a computer program, producing an award-winning digital photograph, dissecting a complex philosophical argument, or deciphering an ancient document.
- **confidence** that comes from getting more proficient and more comfortable using your computer, camera, internet connection, or microphone to help enrich your learning in a rapidly changing world.
- **connection** that comes from using online tools to communicate with fellow learners by sharing text, comments, video, images, memes and the like. (Think Facebook but without the

As we continue to adapt to living and learning under pandemic conditions, we are pleased to offer a new option this semester. Our online learning communities are formed in many ways - some of them are completely synchronous (same place, same time - like our in-person classes used to be or different place, same time - like our Zoom classes are now). But there is also the asynchronous option (different places, different times), and that's where we will venture this semester through our Blackboard Courses!

These courses will require a mindset shift - the learning and interaction within these courses will take place online completely and members who venture into this new territory will enjoy learning at their own pace, at times convenient for their own schedules. In many ways, the success of online learning communities are directly tied to the participation of those enrolled in the courses. Members enrolled in Blackboard Courses will engage with different content mediums (think audio, videos, PowerPoint presentations, selected readings, YouTube, etc.) and then have the opportunity to react to what they learned and engage with other members on discussion boards, chats, memes, and more. Together, members will explore learning interactively in this environment - quite a shift from

political ads or capturing all your personal data.)

- **mastery** that comes from building skills and ability to manage your own self-directed learning by: digging deeper into content of interest; choosing how you invest your time in working with videos, audio, graphics and text; reviewing material at your own pace; and exerting more control over your physical learning environment.
-

primarily listening to a lecture on Zoom and typing your questions into the chat box or even attending a class in person (back when we could do that) and having to raise your hand and wait to be called upon to share your question or comment.

So, if you're looking to venture into some new territory and have some fun exploring and learning, we invite you to register for one of these unique courses this spring as we pilot this new offering! We promise, you'll learn more than just the course content!

Osher Institute Important Upcoming Dates

Our spring catalog should be in your mailbox soon! At this time all classes for the spring semester will be held **online**, which will give members an opportunity to get into classes that might typically have a limited number of seats. Here are some important dates and tips for the upcoming registration process.

December 7

Spring Catalogs Mailed and Posted on [Osher website](#)

December 10

Returning Members - Log in to [registration site](#) to verify your password and username. Call us at 221-1506 if you have questions. *Please do not create a new profile.*

December 11

Last Day of Fall Semester Courses

December 14-18

Spring Course Request Period

- **New Members** - Create a profile on the [registration site](#). Enter your preferred first name in the nickname field when creating your profile.
- **Returning and New Members** - Request courses, activities, and one-time lectures then prioritize selections using the [registration site](#). You must purchase your membership FIRST.

December 21

Notification of courses for which you are successfully registered will be emailed to you. Notification of courses for which you are wait-listed will also be emailed to you.

December 23-January 3 Office Closed (reopens January 4, 2021)

February 1

First Day of Spring Semester Courses

February 1 – May 15

It's not too late to join! Registration for courses continues (some courses will be filled during initial request period).

Reminders:

Request and prioritize your selections **any time within the course request period**. Prioritize your activities (including Town & Gown) and one-time lectures separately from your courses. You will still be able to request courses, one-time lectures and activities **AFTER** the course request period.

Volunteering with Osher

Thank you to our Fall Semester Volunteers!

A big thank you goes out to our class assistants for the fall semester. We appreciate your willingness to help our instructors on Zoom!

Al Cummins
Ben Gregg
Bill Christensen
Bill Meeks
Dave Ross
Ed McMahon
Jim Carey
JoAnn Gora
John Streiff
Linda (Jadi) Johnson
Marla Boren
Marlene Cummins
Scott Langhorst
Trish Volp
K. McPherson
Walter (Rick) Morrison
Rudi Laarhoven



Class Assistants

Online courses require more staff time so we appreciate the willingness of those who have already volunteered to help us manage our 106 online courses this fall. We are still looking for more class assistants to help with the remainder of fall courses (through December 11), if anyone is willing to volunteer their time.

If you are interested in being a class assistant in the future, please email us at osher@wm.edu or leave us a message at (757) 221-1506. Spring semester begins on February 1.

We're happy to train you on what you'll need to know for Zoom in order to assist. And, you'll get to attend the class while volunteering at the same time, all from the comfort of your home!

Osher Course Zoom Recordings

The Osher program wished to record some of our fall courses for future use. As this is a new process for us we are working with W&M's legal office to determine policies and permissions pertaining to those recordings. More information about recordings will be provided when available.

New Instructor Orientation



On January 12, Osher will host its new instructor orientation via Zoom. We have a wonderful array of new instructors bringing a wealth of subjects and ideas to our program and we are excited to welcome them.

Class Host and AV Training

Mark your calendars!

Zoom Training for instructors and class assistants will be offered the week of January 19-22, 2021. Exact date and times to be announced.



Osher Institute Policies



Refund Policy

Please note that the Osher Institute at William & Mary fees are membership fees. They are used to cover overall expenses of operating our lifelong learning program in a given semester and are not directly related to the number of courses you may take (i.e., there are no “per course” fees, and therefore, no “per course” refunds).

The deadline for submitting



Inclement Weather Policy

The Osher Institute at W&M will cancel courses, activities, events, and/or training for weather if William & Mary University Events and Activities are canceled. A notice will be on the Osher Institute at W&M office voice mail (757-221-1506).

Please note, you will not be personally contacted.

membership fee refund requests to osher@wm.edu is the first day of each semester.

For Spring 2021, the refund deadline is February 1. Members are free to register for open courses (up to 8 course max) at any time, even after a semester begins.



[Give to Osher @ W&M](#)

[Visit our website](#)

[Give to W&M](#)

